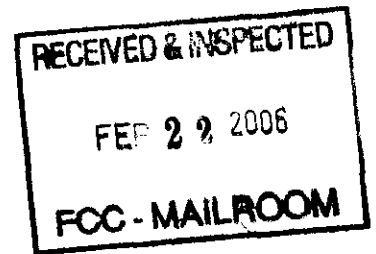


CEB-Crowe

# Geyer Springs

First Baptist Church

Dr. Bruce Chesser, Pastor



February 17, 2006

Ms. Amelia Brown, Disability Rights Office  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Petition For Waiver or Exemption of Requirement of Closed Captioning of Video  
Programing/Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas


Dear Secretary:

Enclosed, and submitted in supplement to the Petition filed on behalf of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church (Geyer Springs), dated December 15, 2005, please find the original and three (3) copies of the verified Amendment to Petition of Geyer Springs First Baptist for waiver or exemption of closed captioning of its Church video programing of its worship services.

Please return the extra copy to the Church, with the Secretary's "Filed" or "Received" mark.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church and  
ACT of Little Rock, Inc.  
P. O. Box 31510  
Little Rock, AR 72260

  
Joseph W. Statton

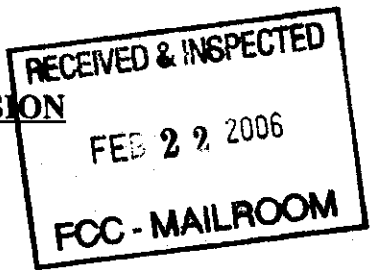
Title: Executive Pastor

Enclosures

cc: Linda K. Bennett  
Direction of Television Ministries/Executive Dir.  
Acts of Little Rock Inc.

**BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**FCC CASE IDENTIFICATION NO.: CGB-CC-0060**



**AMENDMENT TO PETITION FOR WAIVER OR EXEMPTION OF  
REQUIREMENT OF CLOSED CAPTIONING OF VIDEO PROGRAMING**

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, of Little Rock, Arkansas, respectfully moves and petitions the Federal Communications Commission for waiver or exemption of the requirement of closed captioning of its video programing, and in support thereof, states:

1. Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, is a nonprofit corporation, organized and authorized and qualified to transact business in the State of Arkansas for the purpose of conducting services of Christian worship and the further purpose of demonstrating God's love to our world. Geyer Springs First Baptist Church is an organization exempt from income tax pursuant to Section 501(c)(3), of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. To the end and purpose of its mission, Geyer Springs First Baptist Church was an incorporator of and the parent corporation of ACTS of Little Rock, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas for the purpose of Christian television production and video programing. ACTS of Little Rock, Inc. is an organization exempt from income tax pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. That compliance with the requirement to closed caption its video programing will cause an undue burden on the congregation of the Geyer Springs First Baptist Church for the following reasons:

(a) The day-to-day ministries of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church are supported by the regular, weekly tithes and offerings, and other designated gifts, of the members of the Church. The Church's budget is a great challenge for the congregation. The regular tithes and offerings make it possible for the Church to support the 6,000 Southern Baptist Missionaries around the world, and to provide children and youth ministries, student ministries, Christian education - children and youth, students, and adults, a music ministry, special ministries, evangelism and missions - locally, statewide and internationally, and the hundreds of other things that the Church does to demonstrate God's love to our world.

In addition to its day-to-day ministries, the Church has begun a new building project - a new wing for the children/youth and student ministries, and along with that project, come the demands of additional financial needs.

It is the Church's commitment to do more in evangelism in 2006, than ever before. It is the Church's commitment to do more in missions, both at home and around the world, than ever before. It is the Church's commitment to teach and train men, women, boys and girls, to be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our purpose.

(b) The congregation, by vote in conference, fixed the 2006 Budget for the Church at \$3,479,366.00. Included in the total budget figure is \$103,681.00 for the Church's TV ministry. A true copy of the 2006 Budget for Geyer Springs First Baptist Church is submitted herewith, and incorporated here-in-full, by reference.

(c) It is the regular, weekly tithes and offerings that make it possible for the Church to have a ministry staff and a support staff in place to lead the Church congregation, in its day to day ministries. The Church is, however, under staffed, and additional support staff will be required to handle the closed captioning of its worship service video programing. Currently, the Church's worship service is broadcast twice weekly - once locally and once nationwide. The closed captioning service will add a minimum of \$100.00 to each broadcast, not counting the other attendant and ancillary cost of the support staff added to handle the closed captioning requirement.

(d) The ministry mission of the broadcasting of the worship services of the Church is to reach lost men and women, boys and girls. The closed captioning of the broadcasting of the worship services will become the focus of the broadcasting - making sure that the Church has the closed captioning right, instead of getting the broadcast on the air for the audience the Church is reaching- lost men and women, and the shut-ins of our congregation.

(e) The closed caption requirement will directly impact on the operation of the TV ministry of the Church, and its support staff, and require additional funding of the Church's 2006 budget, and consideration in future budgets of the Church.

(f) The television ministry is a Christian ministry of the Church, supported solely by the congregation and through the budget of the Church. Acquiring sponsors for the closed captioning, or asking individuals to contribute to the cost of captioning, or otherwise arranging with program distributors to share in the cost of captioning, are not viable options for the Church. The TV ministry is and can only be a congregation supported mission ministry, and one having the purpose of reaching lost men and women, without influence of sponsors or otherwise.

(g) The Geyer Springs First Baptist Church has had an on-going ministry to persons with hearing disabilities. The Church, through its Director of Television Ministries is in the process of exploring ways to incorporate the use of sign language interpretation in its video programing, as an alternative to closed captioning, to reach those lost men and women, or others in need of the Gospel ministry, who may be hearing impaired. The Church, however, must be good stewards of the tithes and offerings of the congregation. The Church's worship service is video taped, and produced, each week, by the Church's television ministry and ACTS of Little Rock, Inc., and sent out each week to be aired to an audience of approximately 90,000 households. An exemption or waiver of the requirement for closed captioning of the video broadcast of the Church's worship service will permit the Church to reach more lost men and women, and otherwise fulfill its purpose.

It is, therefore, respectfully requested that Geyer Springs First Baptist Church be granted a full waiver and exemption of the requirement of closed captioning of its video broadcast of its Sunday morning worship services.

Respectfully submitted,

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church and  
ACTS of Little Rock, Inc.  
12400 Interstate 30  
P. O. Box 31510  
Little Rock, AR 72260

By:

Joe W. Statton  
Joseph W. Statton

Title: Executive Pastor

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
  )  
COUNTY OF PULASKI )

Joseph W. Statton, Executive Pastor of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, states upon oath, or affirmation that the statements contained in the above and foregoing Petition for waiver or exemption of requirement of closed captioning of video programing are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that being authorized to do so, he has executed the foregoing Petition for the purposes therein set forth by signing the name of Geyer Springs First Baptist Church of Little Rock and Acts of Little Rock, by himself as Executive Pastor.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20 day of February 2006.



Tori Carver  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

4-20-2009